

Elaine - 8/11

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

DATE: DEC 27 1994

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: EH-40:Elaine Gallin:3-2105

SUBJECT: NEW MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) AND THE
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND TOURISM OF SPAIN

TO: William J. Dennison, GC-51

On January 17, 1966, during a refueling operation, a B-52 bomber carrying four nuclear weapons crashed. Two of the three thermonuclear weapons that landed in the Palomares region of Spain experienced detonation of their high explosives upon impact.

To meet U.S. obligations after the accident, the Atomic Energy Commission signed the Hall-Otero Agreement on February 25, 1966 (Attachment 2). This Agreement expanded our earlier Agreement for the Cooperation for Civil Uses of Atomic Energy (signed in August 1957) to include collaboration between Spain and the U.S. to the fields of health and safety.

The Hall-Otero Agreement has provided the basis for our support of the environmental health surveillance studies carried out in the Palomares region of Spain for the last 27 years. It has enabled us to provide support in following the medical status of the exposed local population and in monitoring the residual environmental levels of fissionable material.

Since 1982, our collaborations have been funded by DOE through DOE Contract DE-GI01-82EP12126 with the Government of Spain, which expired on October 31, 1993. At that time, DOE Procurement and Operations decided that the contract period was not to be extended under the existing contract number and advised our Contracting Officer Representative to draft a new international agreement (Attachment 3).

Attached is a draft of the new Memorandum of Agreement (Attachment 1), which will extend DOE support of environmental health studies that relate to the January 17, 1966, incident. This is considered by the Spanish Government as a high priority. I would appreciate it if you could review the agreement and evaluate it to ensure that it meets all DOE legal requirements.



Harry J. Pettengill
Director
Office of International
Health Studies

3 Attachments

